

IN A

Nutshell

No. 127

Official community newsletter of the City of Walnut Creek

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006

Iraq returnees to be honored Veterans Day

The City Council will honor several Walnut Creek servicemen who recently returned from duty in Iraq at the City's Veterans Day Observance Nov. 11.

The program, which is open to the public, will begin at 11 a.m. in Civic Park (in case of rain, the ceremony will move into the Civic Park Assembly Hall).

Among the Iraq veterans scheduled to receive a City commendation from Mayor Kathy Hicks are Sgt. Joe Stein, U.S. Marine Corps, who served in Afghanistan in 2001-02 and then in Iraq in 2003; Warrant Officer 2 Jon Ternstrom, U.S. Army, whose tour in Iraq was in 2006-06; and Petty Officer 3rd Class Bradford Craven, U.S. Navy, who recently returned from the Persian Gulf.

The keynote speaker will be Marguerite McCartney, a Rossmoor resident who served as an Army nurse in World War II.

The Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein and the Walnut Creek School District Chorus will perform several musical numbers.



City staff assists apartment fire victims

Senior Recreation Supervisor Leo Harrod helped serve lunch donated by Sunrise Bistro at Civic Park Community Center, which served as a temporary shelter to some of the 35 residents displaced from the Broadway Plaza Apartments on Lincoln Avenue after a fire swept through the complex on August 17.

Remembering Walnut Creek political icon John A. Nejedly — 1914 - 2006

As Walnut Creek's city attorney during the boom years of the 1950s, John A. Nejedly made history. His celebrated "Little Master Plan" of 1956 gave the growing community a measure of control as it struggled with its first major growth explosion as a result of the opening of Broadway Shopping Center.

His wisdom and guidance ultimately helped secure a freeway, Walnut Creek's first city hall, and a new downtown street system to better manage the increasing traffic.

When he died Sept. 19 at the age of 91 following a massive stroke, Nejedly left a legacy for Walnut Creek that will be felt



John Nejedly

for decades.

A native of Oakland, Nejedly was an Eagle Scout, served his country as a Japanese language officer during World War II, and earned a law

degree from U.C. Berkeley's Boalt Hall.

His public service began in 1948 when he became Walnut Creek's second city attorney and acted as a surrogate city

NEJEDLY, see back page

Special Issue: State of the City 2005/2006

Inside you will find a 16-page overview of the City's accomplishments of the last two years. We hope

you find it informative and enlightening.



City Event Calendar

November

11
Veterans Day Ceremony
11 a.m., Civic Park

17-18
Seniors Club Holiday Boutique
(See *What's Happening*)

23-24
Thanksgiving Observance
(City offices closed)

24
City Tree Lighting
(See story at right)


28
Holiday Concert
(See *What's Happening*)

December

9
City's Holiday Breakfast
(See *What's Happening*)

25-26
Christmas Observance
Jan. 1-2
New Year's Observance
(City offices closed)

City Meeting Calendar

City Council 
Nov. 21; Dec. 5, 19
7 p.m.
City Hall, 1666 N. Main St.


Planning Commission
Nov. 9; Dec. 14
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Arts Commission
Nov. 27; Dec. 18 (cancelled)
4:30 p.m.
City Council chamber

Transportation Commission
Nov. 16, Dec. 21
7 p.m.
City Council chamber

Design Review Commission
Nov. 1, 15; Dec. 6, 20
7 p.m., City Council chamber

Park, Rec & Open Space Commission
Nov. 6, Dec. 4
7 p.m., City Council chamber

 **City Council meetings are televised live on Comcast Channels 6 and 26 (unincorporated), and on Astound Channel 29. They are repeated the following Saturday at 1 p.m. on all.**

City Tree lighting, other holiday festivities slated

Yuletide and Hanukkah season festivities this year will include the City's Holiday Tree Lighting at Civic Park and the Holiday Parade and Grand Menorah Lighting at Broadway Plaza.

The Civic Park Tree Lighting event, sponsored by the Downtown Business Association and the City of Walnut Creek, will be Friday, Nov. 24 at 6 p.m., featuring holiday music performed by the Walnut Creek Concert Band under the direction of Harvey Benstein. Mayor Kathy Hicks will be on hand to light the City tree. Santa will make an appearance to pass out candy canes to all children.

The Holiday Parade of Lights and Open House at Broadway Plaza will be on Nov. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. The Grand Menorah Lighting will be Sunday, Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. For details, call 933-6589.



All aboard for WC Model Railroad Holiday Show

The intricately detailed HO-scale model trains of the Diablo Valley Lines will be showcased at the Walnut Creek Model Railroad Society's annual Holiday Show scheduled Nov. 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 and 26. Diablo Valley Lines is located next to Larkey Park at 2751 Buena Vista Ave. Admission is \$3, ages 13 and up; \$2, seniors and ages 6-12; free, under 6. For hours, call 937-1888.

What's Happening

Seniors' Holiday Boutique Nov. 17-18

Start your holiday shopping at the Walnut Creek Seniors' Club Holiday Boutique on Nov. 17-18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Civic Park Community Center, 1375 Civic Dr. Admission is free. Lunch is \$3 and will be served 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Items for sale will include handcrafted holiday decorations, baby gifts, quilts, toys, wreaths, home accents, baked goods, and more. A free turkey drawing will be held every hour. Call 943-5851.

City's Holiday Breakfast set for Dec. 9

Enjoy an old-fashioned family good time this yuletide season at the annual Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 to 11 a.m., at Heather Farm Park Community Center, 301 No. San Carlos Dr. "Reindeer pancakes" will be served, and seasonal music, arts and crafts, holiday videos and pictures with Santa will be part of the fun. Admission is \$5 per person at the door (free to children under 12 months). This event is cosponsored by the City's Recreation Division and the Walnut Festival Association. For details: www.WalnutCreekRec.org.

Holiday Studio Art Sale Dec. 7-10

The Clay Arts Guild and Civic Arts Education will hold their joint Civic Arts Holiday Studio Art Sale at two locations Dec. 7-10. On sale at Civic Park will be a large selection of handcrafted pottery and ceramic sculpture by students and faculty in the studios. At Shadelands Arts Center, 111 N. Wiget Lane, jewelry, paintings, and other arts will be available for purchase. Hours for both locations are: Dec. 7, 5-9 p.m.; Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call 943-5846.

Center REP brings back 'Christmas Carol'

Center REPeritory Co. will again present its heartwarming production of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" at the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts Dec. 7-17. Tickets are \$28-\$38; call 943-7469.



Mike Dedarian as Bob Cratchit and Jack Powell as Ebenezer Scrooge

Bedford Gallery to showcase hot rods

Anatomy of a Hot Rod, a selection of magnificent hot rods culled by Phil Linhares, Chief Curator at the Oakland Museum of California, will be presented at the City's Bedford Gallery in the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts Nov. 19-Feb. 11, 2007. For details, call 943-1417.

WC Bands Holiday Concert on Nov. 28

Holiday favorites will be performed at the Annual Holiday Concert by the Walnut Creek Concert Band, under the direction of Harvey Benstein, on Tuesday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m. in the Hofmann Theatre at the Dean Leshner Regional Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$15 and \$12; call 943-7469.

WC Police again to run Holiday Toy Drive

For the seventh year, the Walnut Creek Police Department will again be accepting donations of toys for underprivileged children this holiday season. Donations of new and unwrapped toys for children up to 15 years of age will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 15 in the lobby of City Hall, 1666 N. Main Street.

City to recruit for new commissioners

The City Council is planning to fill four vacancies on three of its advisory commissions in early 2007.

Seats will be open on the Arts Commission (2), Planning Commission (1), and Transportation Commission (1).

Applications will be available Jan. 10 in the City Clerk's office and on the City's website (walnut-creek.org). Deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 31 at 5 p.m.

The Council will interview candidates for the four seats in February and make the appointments on March 6.

Lisa Hotchkiss and Jim Pessaglia will be vacating their Arts Commission seats; Robert Pickett is leaving the Planning Commission; and Dan Lawrence is leaving the Transportation Commission.



Walnut Creek on Ice returns Nov. 17

Residents who reveled in last year's ice rink at Civic Park can start planning their next visit as Walnut Creek on Ice returns to Civic Park on Nov. 17. The ice rink will be open through Jan. 15, 2007 in a joint project sponsored by Longs Drugs and coordinated by the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce and the Walnut Creek Downtown Business Association. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sunday. Weekday pricing (including skate rental) is \$11 (M-Th) and Friday until 5:30 p.m. Weekend pricing is \$10, plus \$5 for skate rental. Call 925-935-7669 for details or go online to www.iceskatewalnutcreek.com

New assistant CM joins City staff

Lorie Tinfow rejoined the City staff on Oct. 30 as Assistant City Manager/Administrative Services Director.



Lorie Tinfow

Tinfow was Assistant to the City Manager in Walnut Creek until 2001, Assistant City Manager in Saratoga (2001-2005), and Administrative Services Director in Pleasanton since October 2005.

Tinfow succeeds Administrative Services Director Carol Swindell, who left Sept. 27 after two years with the City.

Among Tinfow's new duties will be overseeing the downtown library project.

New website launched for Boundary Oak course

Boundary Oak Golf Course has introduced a new website at www.boundaryoak.com, which gives golfers the opportunity to request tee times online and join the email club, which offers discounted green fees to members only. In addition, for a limited time, the golf course is offering seniors the opportunity to play on Friday at weekday senior citizen rates.

Shadelands holiday events

The annual Holiday Faire and Victorian Teas are returning to the Shadelands Ranch Historical Museum, 2660 Ygnacio Valley Rd. The Holiday Faire will be Nov. 25 through Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Arts and crafts, holiday decor, toys, and jewelry will be for sale to benefit the Walnut Creek Historical Society. The Victorian Teas will be Nov. 25 to Dec. 10 (except for Dec. 3-4), at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. (reservations required). Cost is \$28/person. Call 935-7871 for reservations.

Teddy Bear Tea at the Gardens

The Gardens at Heather Farm's Teddy Bear Tea returns Dec. 2-3 with storytime, party favors, and gifts for sale. Three seatings for tea will be on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 10 a.m., 1 and 4 p.m., and two on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission to the tea and associated festivities is \$25 for adults and \$15 for children (children must be accompanied by an adult); reservations are required by

calling 925-947-1678. All proceeds benefit the Gardens at Heather Farm. For more info visit www.gardenshf.org.

DRAAs Family Time Matinee Series

The Diablo Regional Arts Association will present two shows in its Target Family Time Matinee Series (sponsored by Target Stores) at the Dean Leshner Center for the Arts: *The Magic Toy Store* (Diablo Ballet), Nov. 19, 2 p.m.; and *A Christmas Carol* (Center REP), Dec. 9, 2 p.m. For tickets, call 943-7469.

Chamber heading to China in 2007

The Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a nine-day Business Leaders' Trip to China March 17 to 25, 2007. It will include stays in Beijing and Shanghai, along with stops at the Forbidden City and the Great Wall. Cost is \$1,499/person, double occupancy, and includes round trip airfare. The trip is open to the public and space is limited to the first 150 people. For reservations or more information, call (925) 934-2007.

More What's Happening

Open space volunteer Ralph Kraetsch honored with Champion Citizen Award

Ralph Kraetsch, a longtime environmental activist and open space volunteer, received the Mayor's Champion Citizen Award on Oct. 3 for his dedication to improving Walnut Creek's quality of life.

The 81-year-old Walnut Creek resident received a standing ovation from the City Council meeting audience after Mayor Kathy Hicks presented him with the award.

Kraetsch served in the 1980s on the City's Arts Commission and Park, Recreation and Open Space Commission. In 1990 he was elected to the Board of Directors of the Walnut Creek Open Space

Foundation, and in 1991 he helped to establish the Oak Habitat Restoration Project to plant new oak trees in the City's open space.

Over the last 15 years, Kraetsch and a large band of volunteers have planted 3,750 sites, resulting in approximately 1,250 healthy oak trees.



Ralph Kraetsch

Cities, Comcast agree on new cable franchise

After years of negotiations, Walnut Creek and seven other cities and Contra Costa County have reached an agreement on a 15-year cable television franchise with Comcast Cable.

The City Council approved the contract on Oct. 3. It replaces a 15-year franchise agreement that was approved in February 1986 with Comcast's predecessor, United Artists Cable.

The new agreement requires Comcast to pay a new fee of 71 cents/subscriber/month to fund the cost of public and governmental access channel operations.

Nejedly

From front page manager in the early 1950s. During that time, Nejedly also successfully engineered Walnut Creek's annexation to the East Bay Municipal Utility District and helped secure federal funding for culverting Walnut Creek, which eliminated periodic flooding.

Nejedly, who was born



City Attorney John Nejedly in 1956

one day after Walnut Creek became a city on Oct. 21, 1914, had lived in his hilltop home near Tice Valley Boulevard since 1946.

After Broadway Shopping Center was opened in 1951, he persuaded the State Legislature to pass a special law permitting Walnut Creek to use its ballooning sales tax revenues to secure bonds to

overhaul its aged downtown street system.

"There were a lot of people who wanted to keep a little downtown community," he recalled in 2003. "But a bigger community was going to come no matter what they did. It was obvious that we had to adjust the community to reality."

Nejedly, who served as Contra Costa's district attorney (1959-1969), would establish himself as one of the state's leading environmentalists while serving as a state senator (1969-1980).



CITY COUNCIL
Kathy Hicks, Mayor*
Sue Rainey, Mayor pro tem
Gwen Regalia
Charlie Abrams
Gary Skrel

* For appointment: Call 256-3504

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

CITY MANAGER
Gary Pokorny
CITY ATTORNEY
Paul Valle-Riestra
CITY CLERK
Patrice Olds
CITY TREASURER
Ronald Cassano

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Lorie Tinfow, Director/Assistant City Manager
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Valerie Barone, Director
ARTS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
Barry Gordon, Director
POLICE
Tom Soberanes, Chief of Police
PUBLIC SERVICES
Dan Richardson, Director

IN A Nutshell

Published bi-monthly and mailed to Walnut Creek residents and businesses

Editor:
Brad Rovanpera

We welcome your comments and questions.
Please call 943-5895 or 943-5800
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For past issues, go online at walnut-creek.org



1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALNUT CREEK CA
PERMIT # 282

*****ECRWSS**
POSTAL CUSTOMER